

TOP SECRET

CONTROL NO.

BYE 2600-67

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Handle Via Indicated Controls

BYEMAN-COMINT

TRINE

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cleared for the specific projects;

OX CART

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GROUP 1
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25X1

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26 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6723

1. Subject mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1330, 21 September 1967.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6723
b. Date Flown: 17 Sept 1967
c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
d. Mission Success: Successful
e. Pilot's Name: [REDACTED]
f. Aircraft Number: 131
g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
h. Take-off Time - Planned: 0225Z
Actual: 0225Z
i. Landing Time - Planned: 0625Z
Actual: 0625Z
j. Time Enroute - Planned: 4:00
Actual: 4:00
k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
m. Equipment:

(2) Spare Same as Primary.

3. Operations:

- a. Route (INS Plot vs Planned): Satisfactory

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- (1) Comments: Excellent Track
 - (2) INS Terminal Error: 4.1 NM
 - (3) INS Spec Error: 10.5 NM
 - b. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory
4. Weather:
- a. Forecast vs Actual:
 - (1) Actual weather better than briefed.
 - (2) Comments: Go No Go forecast III patchy II for target. 417 received 0200Z valid 0013Z indicated Cat IV to V over 70% target. This data was of poor quality due to being on edge of picture and distortion. Forecast revised to reflect 417 data. ESSA II data indicated target area a Cat II. Kadema indicated excellent quality and centering on their product. Mission resulted in better than 50% cloud free.
 - b. Weather Scout Reporting: Satisfactory
5. Intelligence:
- a. Target Coverage:
 - (1) 29 of 30 programmed targets covered.
 - (2) 9 first priority SSM targets of 9 covered.
 - (3) 21 of 27 first priority NVN COMOR targets covered
 - (4) 124 SAM sites, 19 sites occupied, 4 new sites
 - (5) 16 other priority NVN COMOR targets covered
 - (6) Comments: Excellent reconnaissance mission. Residual 25X1 intelligence on rolling stock was outstanding.

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b. Quality of Take: Satisfactory

(1) Resolution - ON not available (due at NPIC on or about 21 September); consequently, all evaluations made from D. P. Majority of take was classified by P. I. s as "best ever seen on Type I photography"; however, NPIC did report about 10% of photography from aft optical system showed some degradation of resolution. Frame ephemeris indicates this reduction in resolution may be attributed to configuration being caged. There was also some indication of exposure variation but this could have been caused by processing. No other discrepancies noted.

(2) Camera Operation - No major discrepancies. Slight exposure variance between forward and aft units being investigated.

e. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory

(2)

6. Material:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory

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(1) Comments: Fuel quantity totalizer went to maximum reading twice in flight. Could not duplicate on ground.

b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory

(1) Comments: Type IC slight exposure variance between forward and aft bench. Take was not degraded. Theodolite test being conducted.

7. Communications: Satisfactory

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory

c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory

(1) SEL-CAL failed to work first :30 minutes but was satisfactory during remainder of flight.


(2) Pilot reported he could not hear on occasion. 25X1
Problem was probably an intermittent intercom connection.

8. Outstanding Action Required: General Bacalis requested blow up photo plates of Haiphong (Intell).


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for WILLIAM E. SHELTON
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Operations, OSA


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OXC/O/OSA/mb

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